



*Preserving the History and Legend of Santa Claus*

### **The Santa Claus Oath Foundation**

As the author of the Santa Claus Oath and a premiere historian of the Santa Claus Legend, Phillip L. Wenz has been asked to consult on numerous projects in the television, film, literature, and media industries. In 2009, he developed the Santa Claus Oath Foundation to make his research materials and collections available to more people, companies, and organizations, including the Santa Claus community itself.

### **Mission Statement**

The Santa Claus Oath Foundation is an establishment specializing in the preservation and perpetuation of the Santa Claus Oath, the Santas of the past, Santa history, and Santa artifacts as a chronological part of the Legend of Santa Claus to educate the current and future generations of those who are or will be a Santa Claus in the tradition of St. Nicholas the gift giver of Myra.

### **Synopsis**

The Santa Claus Oath Foundation is a private non-governmental entity that derives its funds from private sources with a principle purpose of the preservation and perpetuation of the history, memorabilia, props, artifacts, and folklore of the Santa Claus Legend. The Foundation acts as a research and historical alliance with the general Santa Claus community to spread available resources throughout the community by special events and seminars. Any gifts, offerings, seminars, and events are presented to individual people or organizations at the sole discretion of the Santa Claus Oath Foundation.

### **Funding**

The funding of the Santa Claus Oath Foundation is solely from the personal finances of the principle individuals and their companies, which are privately held. No monies are or will be accepted from any individual Santa actor or related industry organization. The Foundation will at all times stay free and clear of the Santa Claus Community in all of its financial dealings.

### **Assets**

The Santa Claus Oath Foundation's Memorabilia and Archives are assets that are privately and physically held in central Illinois by Santa Claus Productions and are registered possessions, belongings, and resources by Phillip L. Wenz with a private insurance provider and a State of Illinois recognized appraisal institution. Historical documentation has been provided to the State of Illinois, along with the Library of Congress numbers if applicable to copyrighted and published materials. The archives and memorabilia are not on display for public viewing. Viewing is by appointment only. A complete list of archives and memorabilia is cataloged with documentation. Finances, insurance, appraised values of assets, and chain of custodianship are on file with legal counsel in the State of Illinois. Absolutely at no time is any part of the memorabilia or achieves for sale.

## Origins

The holdings are a result of more than thirty years and with special access to numerous archival materials of private individuals and companies. The holdings also include a substantial individual collection of artifacts from Santa's Village theme park in Dundee, Illinois along with the personal career materials and research notes of Phillip L. Wenz. The achieves also includes numerous audio, video, and musical assets in many types of mediums.

The following list is only a very small portion of the archives and memorabilia holdings. There are many one of a kind and rare items.

## Holdings

Santa Claus Oath assets include copyrights of literature, usages, and images; signed and original numbered Oath documents; profile biographies overviews; custodianship of Oath Book with over 2,500 unique signatures; original and copyrighted videos; original 1938 Howard and Yellig in Santa Claus, Indiana materials, original 1935 bricks from the Candy Castle signed in 2008 by Oath Dedication participants.

Charles W. Howard's scrapbook micro-films, original Christmas Park materials, original Santa Claus School materials, numerous photographs and film resources. Jim Yellig research materials include over 70 newspaper and magazine articles, film resources, photos, and personal letters. Candy Castle includes historic documentations from the 1930's to current, Millers & Rhoads Department Store's public relations archives of Christmas and Santa promotions, which include inter negatives, ad layouts, scripts for lunch with Santa, commercials, and radio spots, the 1994 remake of Miracle on 34th Street includes scripts, background material, photos, location shoot guide, and footage. Numerous materials on Santa Doug Mellor and Santa Robert George. Department store profiles of Santa programs from Macys, Gimbles, Marshall Fields, PA Bergners, Carsons, Dillards, Foleys to mention a few, along with Santa Parade documentations of New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Houston, Toronto, Philadelphia, and Chicago, along with Peoria, IL, the oldest Santa Claus parade. Plus numerous "Santa" theme parks and related attractions materials and memorabilia.

Historical Costumes and Patterns study with documentations. A video library of historic Santa and Christmas related movies, newsreel, films, and television. The audio library includes records, piano reels, CD's, and tapes with over 150 different album productions.

The collection also includes rare Christmas books, Santa stories, magazines that date to the 18th and 19th centuries, numerous "Coca Cola" Santa research materials. Research documents on Santa's family tree dating back to the Norse Gods traditions to St. Nicholas, to current legends. Numerous Christmas cook books (over 100), antique and new cookie cutters and Christmas tins, extensive research on "photo companies" and Santa dating back to the late 1940's to current, along with working documentation of major shopping malls and Santa's role in them, plus more materials in boxes and file cabinets documenting numerous local Santas from different regions of the US, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

## Santa's Village Illinois Archives

The current archival holdings are without doubt the most complete historical documentation of the Dundee Santa's Village. The archives include certified copies of the original corporation charter of Santa's Village Corporation (California) of 1954, the 1956 addition of the Scotts Valley Santa's Village, Santa's Village Corporation business plan, the original 1958 lease for the 38 acres of the Dundee park, the amendments of the Polar Dome Project, the sale of the park to Everding Management, the sale to the Medina Investors, and the sale to North Pole Corporation. Documentations from the attempted purchase by North Pole Village, L.L.C., the auction of 2006 and the complete list of buyers who bought the assets. Other holdings include the Park's original blue prints; the foreman's working blue prints, the Polar Dome prints, Snowball ride prints (Arrow Development), the Antique Cars prints (Arrow Development), the 1966 redevelop prints for the Polar Dome, and each sequential addition prints, listing of key management, contractors and employees. (Note: Information on any management, contractor or employees of Santa's Village is used in the historical context only. Employment records are confidential property of the former owner and operator of Santa's Village. )

## **Santa's Village Illinois Archives-continued**

The visual archives include over 12,000 individual images of Santa's Village from the ground breaking of September 1958 to current photographs taken in July of 2008, complete sets of the 1959, 1963, and 1972 post card series (plus the inter-negatives that produced them), film footage from 1958 through 2006 including 1958's ground breaking, Santa's make-up test shots, opening day activities, the inflating of the Polar Dome, opening of the Dome activities, 1963-1966 ice shows, park commercials from 1963, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005. Public relations footage filmed for various promotions (group sales, picnic videos, etc), newspaper articles dating from 1958 to 2007, over 5,000 slides, park presentations, complete sets of brochures 1959-2003, park fun guides 1985-2003, aerial photo mapping pictures 1959, 1963, 1969, 1972, 1978, 1983, 1989, and 1994. Complete public relations archives including, image negatives, press photos, promotional partners, press releases, media kits, media coverage, interviews, stationary, business cards and artworks. Other visuals include numerous park photographs of the Sky Forest, California Park and the Scotts Valley, California Park, a 1963 feature film "Santa's Village" that was filmed at the Scotts Valley, California Park and three K. Gordon Murray featurettes that were filmed at the Dundee Park in 1964 and 1965. Audio archives include radio spots from 1966-2005.

The collection includes some of the most hard to find Santa's Village memorabilia such as Park originals as the complete Santa's House (ownership) and props (chair, good book desk, sleigh bed, side tables, Santa's sleigh, etc), the Frozen North Pole, large pocket watch, numerous 1959 park murals and signage. Rare items including the one of a kind Mrs. Claus' Candy Kitchen static display, cookie cutters, logo candy boxes, weighted rolling pin and the Santa's Village Cookbook that was used at all three parks. Other originals include a complete Pixie costume, Santa Sac burlap bag, reindeer puppet from the Wee Puppet Theatre, "In search of Santa" a Santa's Village adventure book and numerous early logo items such a tea candle holders, view master reels, plates, cups, post cards, shirts and elf hats. Coloring books, maps, games, felt boards, pennants, Santa's Helper pins and private photographs, all from the years 1959 through 1962.

The collection continues with Polar Dome items such as 1963 skating programs, ice hockey programs, logo hats and shirts. The 1963 through 1969 memorabilia includes series number two post cards, letters from Santa, new maps with the Polar Dome and traditional logo items such as park coloring books, hats and shirts. Rare items include a complete set of Pixie Pantry menus and Gingerbread House display props. The 1970's and 1980's brought new items such as logo salt and pepper shakers, mugs, series three post cards, shirts, hats and coffee cups. The 1990's had logo playing cards, shirts, hats and shot glasses. Our collection includes numerous era pieces besides the preceding items.

Other Items include employee uniforms - coats, shirts, hats, name tags and handbooks from different eras. Logo - stationary, envelopes, business cards, folders and ink stamps, a complete set of park stationary that starts in 1959 through 2005, Santa Suits - 1959 Santa Suit worn by the park's original Santa, James L. Combs and the last Santa Suit worn at the park by Phillip L. Wenz in 2006.

## **Contact Information**

All questions, inquires, and requests must be submitted in writing and sent by e-mail. Please contact the Santa Claus Oath Foundation at [santaclausoath@msn.com](mailto:santaclausoath@msn.com) or visit [www.SantaClausOath.com](http://www.SantaClausOath.com)